



Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona

## NEWS RELEASE

1110 West Washington, Suite 290 • Phoenix, Arizona 85007 • [www.azwifa.gov](http://www.azwifa.gov)

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**Contact:** Tiffany N. Troidl, Communications Director: (602) 364-1314

### **Chairman Steve Owens Applauds Senate Committee Action That Restores Clean Water Funds**

PHOENIX – Water Infrastructure Finance Authority Chairman Steve Owens today applauded the Senate Appropriations Committee, which voted on June 9, 2005 to restore much needed funds to the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund. In May 2005, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to cut the fund, which is designed to help states upgrade water and sewage treatment facilities.

“The Senate Appropriations Committee did the right thing and restored funds to this critical program,” said Owens, who is also Director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. “Let’s hope now that the full Senate will do the same.”

The Senate Committee approved \$370 more in clean water funds than President Bush requested in his FY06 budget and \$241 more than the House provided in the bill it passed on May 19.

The \$26.3 billion FY 2006 spending measure (HR 2361) included \$1.1 billion for the Clean Water State Revolving Loan fund, keeping the program operating at the current level.

“Inequities in the allocation formula remain and Arizona’s communities continue to be shortchanged,” said Jay Spector, WIFA’s Executive Director. “As the second-fastest growing state in the country, Arizona needs more funds to reduce the stress on its infrastructure.”

WIFA conservatively estimates that Arizona’s federal capitalization grant should be around \$45 million per year based on the state’s infrastructure needs and rapid population growth. The EPA’s Clean Water Needs Survey, which is conducted every four years in all 50 states and territories, estimated that Arizona has over \$6.3 billion in clean water infrastructure needs over the next 20 years.

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#### ABOUT THE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AUTHORITY OF ARIZONA

The Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona maintains and improves water quality in Arizona by providing communities and private water systems with access to low-interest financial assistance and technical assistance needed for basic water infrastructure. WIFA's funds are capitalized by contributions from the US Congress and the state of Arizona. As a leader in water infrastructure finance, WIFA has become a premier financial institution both in Arizona and nationally. Visit WIFA’s Web site at [www.azwifa.gov](http://www.azwifa.gov).